

BUILDING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

Christians and Politics

10 reasons why Christians should focus more on the gospel than politics*

by: Greg Stier, CEO and Founder of *Dare 2 Share Ministries*.

1. Politics _____ . The gospel doesn't.

Matthew 24:35 (ESV)

³⁵ *Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.*

2. The gospel will _____ our politics, not vice versa.

Romans 12:1-2 (ESV)

¹ *I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.* ² *Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

3. It's what _____ calls us to do.

Acts 1:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ *So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?"* ⁷ *He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.* ⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

4. We are citizens of a different _____ .

Philippians 3:20 (ESV)

²⁰ *But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ ...*

5. It's what the early _____ focused on.

Acts 4:23-31 (ESV)

²³ *When they were released, they went to their friends and reported what the chief priests and the elders had said to them.* ²⁴ *And when they heard it, they lifted their voices together to God and said, "Sovereign Lord, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and everything in them, ²⁵ who through the mouth of our father David, your servant, said by the Holy Spirit, "Why did the Gentiles rage, and the peoples plot in vain? ²⁶ The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers were gathered together, against the Lord and against his Anointed"— ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place. ²⁹ And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, ³⁰ while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus."*

³¹ *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.*

6. It attacks the _____ of evil and not just the _____ of it.

Romans 1:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

7. Politics can _____ the body of Christ while the gospel will unite us.

Philippians 1:27 (ESV)

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel ...

8. The gospel calls us to _____ for politicians we disagree with, not hate them.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (ESV)

¹ First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, ² for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. ³ This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴ who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

9. The gospel brings political action soaked in _____ and _____, not pride and arrogance.

Romans 13:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. ² Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. ³ For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, ⁴ for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. ⁷ Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. ⁸ Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

10. Politics are a reflection of the _____ of a society. The gospel gives society a new compass that is accurate.

Titus 3:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Remind them to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good work, ² to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy toward all people. ³ For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. ⁴ But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit ...

** My point is, not that we should avoid politics as Christians, but that we should focus more on the gospel.*

4 Principles for Christians and Political Engagement

*“Incomparably more glorious than Rome,
is that heavenly city in which for victory you have truth;
for dignity, holiness; for peace, felicity; for life, eternity.”
- Augustine, The City of God*

1 Peter 2:11-17 (ESV)

¹¹ Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹² Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. ¹³ Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴ or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do good. ¹⁵ For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶ Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷ Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1. Remember your _____

This means at the very least, living upright, honorable, charitable, respectful lives as witness to our real citizenship.

2. Pay your _____

We obey the laws that do not violate God’s laws, and we do so with the commendation of Christ in mind. So when we have to pay our taxes, we pay our taxes with Christ in mind. And if we vote, we vote with Christ in mind.

3. _____ first and foremost.

We participate in the political process respectfully and respectably, even as we live as those whose ultimate allegiance is to God and not men.

Acts 5:27-29 (ESV)

²⁷ And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, ²⁸ saying, “We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man’s blood upon us.” ²⁹ But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than men.

4. Love the _____.

The gates of hell will prevail against the gates of cultures and kingdoms. But not the church.

IMPLICATIONS and CONCLUSIONS: